

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 08150 271420Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 MCT-02
CA-01 OPR-02 HA-05 /086 W
-----122747 271424Z /53

R 271231Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 30
DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMBAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 8150

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IR
SUBJ: RAMADAN DEEP MOURNING WEEKEND WRAP UP

SUMMARY: SPORADIC VIOLENCE, PARTICULARLY ARSON, CONTINUED
THROUGHOUT THREE DAY DEEP MOURNING PERIOD.
WEEKEND BROUGHT NO MASSIVE RIOTS OR LARGE SCALE ACTS OF
VIOLENCE, ALTHOUGH EMB HAS UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF SHOOTOUT
BETWEEN POLICE AND TERRORISTS. WORST INCIDENT WAS RAMPAGE
IN ABADAN BY MOB STILL INCENSED OVER THEATER FIRE. OFFICIAL
INVESTIGATION OF ABADAN FIRE CONCLUDED ARSONISTS USED HIGH
OCTANE FUEL TO SET FIRE FROM AT LEAST TWO DIFFERENT
POINTS. END SUMMARY.

1. RAMAZAN DEEP MOURNING WEEKEND PASSED WITHOUT COLLAPSE
OF PUBLIC ORDER OR LARGE-SCALE CONFRONTATIONS. TEHRAN
REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET AUGUST 26, ASSUMED TO BE PEAK DAY
FOR DEMONSTRATIONS. THERE WAS LIGHT VIOLENCE IN SOUTH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 08150 271420Z

TEHRAN; A NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATIONS, INVOLVING SMASHING
BANK WINDOWS. POLICE USED TEARGAS TO DISPERSE CROWD.
WORSE OUTBREAK WAS IN ABADAN, AND IT FALLS OUTSIDE PATTERN
OF ANTIMODERNIST VIOLENCE, BECAUSE MOB WAS PROTESTING
GOVERNMENT NEGLIGENCE IN PROTECTING REX THEATRE AGAINST
TERRORISTS. CROWD BECAME UNRULY, REPORTEDLY DESTROYING
BANKS AND OTHER CITY INSTALLATIONS. DURING THIS DISTURBANCE,

A FIRE DESTROYED 200 SHOPS IN ABADAN BAZAAR.

2. MORE STANDARD BOMBINGS AND BURNINGS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT WEEKEND. FIRE IN TOYOTA PARKING GARAGE IN KHORRAMSHAHR KILLED TWO PEOPLE AND INJURED THREE. OTHER FIRES DAMAGED A TEHRAN BREWERY, A KHORRAMABAD FIBER PLANT, A PARKING LOT IN QOM, A CONSTRUCTION WAREHOUSE IN QOUCHAN, AND A PRIVATE CAR IN AHVAZ. A MOSAIC PLANT IN AHVAZ WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE, INJURING FOUR PEOPLE, RIOTERS SMASHED BANK WINDOWS IN RASHT. BOMBS EXPLODED IN YAZD'S GOLDEN HEN RESTAURANT AND IN DARVISH NIGHT CLUB IN TEHRAN. BOTH PLACES WERE CLOSED FOR RAMAZAN.

3. EMB RECEIVED REPORT THAT SHOOTOUT BETWEEN SECURITY FORCES AND TERRORIST GROUP OCCURED AUGUST 24. ACCORDING TO REPORT, SEVERAL TERRORISTS WERE KILLED. EMB HAS NO CONFIRMATION YET FROM SECURITY FORCES.

4. OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION INTO ABADAN TRAGEDY BROUGHT NO DRASTIC NEW INFORMATION. INQUIRY DETERMINED THAT FIRE WAS INDEED ARSON, STARTED WITH HIGH OCTANE GASOLINE RATHER THAN BOMBS. ARSONISTS REPORTEDLY SPREAD INCENDIARY MATERIALS IN WAITING ROOM AND MAIN HALL, IN ADDITION TO WAREHOUSE. DEATH TOLL IS BACK TO 377 BASED ON ACTUAL BODY COUNT, ALTHOUGH THIS APPARENTLY LEAVES A LOT OF PEOPLE UNACCOUNTED FOR. INVESTIGATORS CRITICIZED POLICE AND FIRE-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 08150 271420Z

FIGHTERS FOR NEGLIGENCE BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT RAPID SPREAD OF BLAZE PRODUCED NOXIOUS GAS WHICH KILLED VICTIMS IN FIRST FEW MINUTES.
SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEHRAN08150
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780350-0872
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780819/aaaaapk.k.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5d23f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1606131
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RAMADAN DEEP MOURNING WEEKEND WRAP UP SUMMARY: SPORADIC VIOLENCE, PARTICULARLY ARSON, CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THREE DAY DEEP MOURNING PERIOD.
TAGS: PINT, IR
To: STATE DIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5d23f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014